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Lodgepoles can produce marketable lumber

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LODGEPOLES CAN PRODUCE
MARKETABLE LUMBER

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Lodgepole pine can yield marketable 2 X 4 studs according to the results of a study conducted by Edward S. Kotok, project leader at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Missoula.

Kotok, also a visiting professor at the University of Montana School of Forestry, discovered that lodgepole trees with a variety of characteristics produce economically sufficient amounts of marketable 2 X 4 studs. However, severely defected trees, particularly those with forked stems, yield small volumes of the better grade studs.

Marketable lumber is graded according to the crook in the wood and the number of knots.

Kotok said the study was conducted because lodgepole manufacturers have been faced since 1960 with the loss of the one-inch board market to plywood and other sheet-formed materials. They discovered the lodgepole species is well-suited for the manufacture of 2 X 4 studs, but needed a study showing the economic feasibility of producing lumber from trees with a variety of lodgepole characteristics.

The study showed the larger diameter trees yielded proportionately more high-grade studs than small diameter trees and the smaller forked and crooked stem timber yielded the lowest quantitees of marketable lumber.

The study, which was conducted in the Targhee National Forest in Idaho, involved the selection of 119 trees from more than 2,000 woodsrun lodgepole pine. Seven tree characteristics weres studied and the 119 logs yielded 2,321 2 X 4 studs, totalling some 11,400 board feet of lumber.

Copies of the U.S. Forest Service Research Note INT-63 are available from the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Ogden, Utah.